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March 15, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 142 – February 2019
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On February 5, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the status of the revised Draft 17-Mile Remediation Investigation (RI) Report comments and revisions.
- On February 7, Region 2, CPG, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy (IR) Feasibility Study (FS).
- On February 13, Region 2, CPG and NJDEP held a meeting/teleconference to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On February 15, CPG and Region 2 consultants held a teleconference to review Newark Bay Study Area (NBSA) model test run results.
- On February 20, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the status and schedule of revisions to Draft Revised 17-Mile RI Report and Appendices.

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- On February 21, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On February 21, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to review the status of the Bioaccumulation (Food Web) Model (FWM) calibration.
- On February 26, Region 2 and CPG consultants held a teleconference to discuss the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report Appendix M bathymetry evaluation and discussion.
- On February 27, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the comments on Section 10 of the Draft Revised 17-Mile RI Report.
- On February 28, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.

Correspondence

- On February 4, Region 2 provided the agenda for the February 7, 2019 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting to CPG.
- On February 4, CPG provided presentation materials from the January 29, 2019 FWM calibration status teleconference to CPG.
- On February 5, Region 2 provided conditional acceptance and minor comments for the Draft Upper 9-Mile Feasibility Study (FS) Work Plan to CPG.
- On February 5, Region 2 provided the January 30, 2019 Upper 9-Mile FS meeting minutes to CPG.
- On February 6, CPG submitted Draft Upper 9-Mile FS Metrics to Region 2.
- On February 7, Region 2 provided the Upper 9-Mile IR FS Engineering Assumptions approval letter to CPG.
- On February 8, Region 2 provided comments on CPG's memo regarding the use of model results in the Upper 9-Mile IR FS to CPG.
- On February 8, Region 2 provided a letter requesting sampling of current conditions in the Upper 9 miles to CPG.
- On February 10, CPG provided additional information from the January 29, 2019 FWM teleconference to Region 2.
- On February 13, Region 2 provided NJDEP's comments on the Remedial Action Objective (RAO) 2 and associated footprint development to CPG.
- On February 15, CPG delivered the January Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On February 18, CPG provided a response to NJDEP comments on RAO 2 and suggested agenda topics for the February 21, 2019 meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2.
- On February 18, CPG provided references regarding bed armoring in response to NJDEP's request during the February 13, 2019 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting to Region 2.
- On February 19, CPG provided a status update (LIDAR Survey completed) for the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey to Region 2.
- On February 19, Region 2 consultant provided comments and questions on the LPR FWM code adjustments to CPG.

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- On February 19, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding scheduling a teleconference to discuss comments on Section 10 of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report.
- On February 19, CPG provided a response to Region 2 consultant's comments and questions on the FWM code adjustments to be discussed during the February 21, 2019 FWM calibration status teleconference to Region 2.
- On February 21, Region 2 provided final meeting minutes from the February 7, 2019 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting and the agenda for the February 21 Upper 9-Mile RI FS meeting to CPG.
- On February 21, CPG provided presentation slides from the February 7, 2019 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting to Region 2.
- On February 21, Region 2 consultant provided FWM runs and presentation from the February 21, 2019 teleconference to CPG.
- On February 22, Region 2 provided a summary of the February 13, 2019 FS Meeting/Teleconference to CPG.
- On February 26, Region 2 provided comments to CPG on the following Draft 17-Mile RI data reports: March 2014 Draft Physical Water Column Monitoring Sampling Program Characterization Summary; November 2014 revised Draft Small Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring Sampling Program Characterization Summary; and November 2014 revised Draft High Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring Sampling Program Characterization Summary Report.
- On February 26, CPG provided the River Mile (RM) 10.9 delineation presentation from the February 11, 2019 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting to Region 2.
- On February 28, CPG provided a status update to Region 2 that the multibeam and side scan sonar surveys were completed for the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey on February 27.
- On February 27, CPG provided a revised Modeling Guardrails memo and revised Upper 9-Mile IR FS Metrics to Region 2.
- On February 28, CPG provided a description of a proposed Upper 9-Mile IR FS Modeling Approach to Region 2.
- On February 28, Region 2 provided Action Items from the February 18, 2019 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting to CPG.
- On February 28, Region 2 provided amended meeting minutes from the February 21, 2019 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting to CPG.

Work

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG revised the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Work Plan Addendum.
- CPG continued to develop IR FS supporting documents.
- CPG initiated the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR FWM

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(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) has been partially revised, but additional work on calibration issues is required to complete the revision.
- CPG will continue to support HDR's review of the calibration of the LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue participation in meetings and conference calls with Region 2 and NJDEP to prepare the Upper 9-Mile IR FS Addendum.
- CPG will initiate modeling projections for the IR FS.
- CPG will complete the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey.

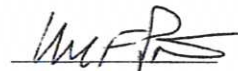
(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Other Documents – Region 2 and CPG are working on finalizing the outstanding documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

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cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
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